

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL
MINUTES
JUNE 5, 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale, Chairperson
Lt. Robert Bates, Phoenix Police Department
Kristin Scharlau for Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe
John A. Blackburn, Jr., AZ Criminal Justice Commission
Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence
*Dr. Jennifer Casaletto, Maricopa Medical Center
*Suzanne Cohen, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
*Councilmember William Conner, El Mirage
JoAnn Del-Colle, Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
Jessica Fierro for Councilmember Trinity Donovan, Chandler
Andy Hall for Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security
*Cindy Hallman, Marley House
*Councilmember Brenda Holland, Goodyear
Linda Melendez for Chief Dan Hughes, Surprise Police Department
*Cmdr. Kim Humphrey, Phoenix Police Department, Vice Chair
Joshua Donaldson for Lynette Jelinek, Glendale Fire Department
*Candace Johnson, A New Leaf
Alice Ghareib for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging
*Patricia Klahr, Chrysalis Shelter
Councilmember Phil Lieberman, Glendale
Jodi Beckley Liggett, AZ Foundation for Women
*Betty Lynch, Representative for City of Avondale
*JoEllen Lynn, American Express

Jeremy Arp for Maria-Elena Ochoa, Governor's Office, Division for Women
Stephanie Olohan for City of Goodyear
Celeste Adams for Janice Parker, Save the Family Foundation
Katie Hobbs for Connie Phillips, Sojourner Center
Lynn Potts for John Pombier, City of Mesa
Kerry Ramella, Phoenix Fire Department
Tina Solomon, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office
Sarah Youngblood, Community Legal Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chris Fike, Elim House
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
Chris Groninger, AZ Foundation for Legal Services & Education
Rana Hemoth, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Jessye Johnson, Elim House
Kristen Krey, City of Glendale
Linda King, Fix the Hurt
Mary Alice McKone, Elim House
Mary Marshall, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Sarah Smith, Glendale Fire Department
Rena Tenney, MAG
Sgt Ignacio Ybarra, Surprise Police Department
Jessica Yanow, AZ Association of Community Health

+ Those attending by video/audio conference

* Those not present or represented by proxy

1. Call to Order

Chair Mary Manross, Mayor of Scottsdale, called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. Chair Manross welcomed everyone and introductions ensued.

2. Call to the Audience

No comments were made at this time.

3. Approval of the April 3, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Chair Manross called for approval of the April 3, 2008 meeting minutes. Councilmember Phil Lieberman, City of Glendale, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, seconded the motion. The meeting minutes passed unanimously.

4. Civil Legal Assistance Study

Chair Manross introduced Renae Tenney, MAG, who led a discussion on the proposed project design for the civil legal assistance study. Ms. Tenney stated the study was chosen by the Council as a goal for the FY2008 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and will be continued into FY2009. She said the purpose of the study as written in the Work Program is to focus on civil legal assistance for domestic violence (DV) survivors by collecting local data on types of legal services available and outcomes in cases where legal assistance was accessed. This focus has been refined. Ms. Tenney stated the proposed project design for the study will look at the accessibility experience of DV survivors in shelters navigating the family court system. The study will identify what assistance is beneficial and what presents DV survivors with disadvantages.

Ms. Tenney stated proposed study activities will include an inventory of legal services and a clear explanation of the family court process. The study will highlight best practices and recommendations for expanding upon best practices. She said surveys and interviews of survivors and legal assistance professionals will be conducted. The outcome of the study is to provide a better understanding of how DV survivors in shelters in Maricopa County can better access legal assistance and the outcomes associated with receiving legal assistance. She said the proposed project design fits within the scope as directed by this Council. Ms. Tenney stated the study will provide impactful information for ensuring DV survivors are able to access all opportunities for assistance within the family court system. She noted some important factors to consider regarding the study's parameters. Ms. Tenney stated there is no funding source for an outside consultant. The study will be done in-house. She emphasized being mindful of what can be done with current resources and the need to keep the study focused to ensure it will have a positive impact on legal services for DV survivors. Ms. Tenney asked for comments from the committee.

Chair Manross noted lack of awareness of existing programs as an addition to the list of potential barriers to assistance. Ms. Del-Colle inquired about the intent to distribute the survey to DV survivors in shelters only. She noted Phoenix Family Advocacy Center serves DV survivors with the same legal issues who are not staying in shelters. She asked about the possibility of including these DV survivors in the study. Ms.

Tenney said this idea had been considered but was excluded from the study parameters due to limited resources and concerns over the complexity of finding DV survivors outside of shelters willing to participate. She commented surveys will be conducted with DV survivors staying in both homeless and DV shelters. Councilmember Lieberman suggested inviting Judge Ellie Finn to speak to the Council. He stated she would be a great resource for information surrounding DV survivors and the legal system. Ms. Tenney invited Council members to participate in a stakeholders' group meeting on June 12, 2008 from 2:00-3:30 pm in the Cholla Room in the MAG offices. She said topics for discussion will include crafting survey and interview questions for the study.

Chair Manross called for a motion to recommend approval of the civil legal assistance study project design. John Blackburn Jr., Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, moved to approve the motion. Councilmember Lieberman, City of Glendale, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Youth Empowerment Project Radio PSA

Chair Manross introduced Renae Tenney, MAG, who presented the final radio public service announcement. Ms. Tenney stated the Youth Empowerment Project raises awareness of teen dating violence and places resources directly in the hands of teens through the Web of Friends Web site and a public service announcement (PSA) competition. She said the PSA competition invites youth to create concepts for speaking to their peers about the issue of dating violence. Ms. Tenney said this year's categories included radio ads and e-invites to visit the Web of Friends Web site.

Ms. Tenney stated the PSA was created after hearing from many teens and social services professionals. She said the final version combines the best elements of the top three entries in the radio category. Ms. Tenney shared about a potential funding source that would allow for the PSA to be played on The Edge and POWER 98.3 during prime time. Ms. Tenney thanked the Governor's Office for financial support of the project. She thanked Council members for participating in message testing. Seven message testing focus groups were conducted with more than 140 participants. Ms. Tenney thanked the MAG Communications Division for production of the PSA. She also thanked teen volunteers from Valley Youth Theater and Suns-Diamondbacks Education Academy for providing voice talent for the project.

Ms. Tenney commented the PSA parameters required a final run-time of less than 30 seconds for play on mainstream stations. She said this length fell in line with teens' comments to keep the PSA short and quick paced. Ms. Tenney noted the PSA's primary focus on the message of "It's not love; it's abuse" and promotion of the Web of Friends Web site. Ms. Tenney played the final production of the radio PSA and asked for comments. Chair Manross said she thought the final version successfully incorporated several types of abuse including verbal, mental and physical. This feedback was the consensus of the Council. Ms. Tenney said the radio PSA will be distributed to local radio stations by end of June.

Chair Manross called for a motion for approval of the final production of the radio public service announcement. Ms. Del-Colle, FAC, moved to approve the motion. Allie Bones, AZCADV, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 2008 Walk to End Domestic Violence

Chair Manross introduced Jodi Liggett, Arizona Foundation for Women, to provide an update on the 2008 Walk to End Domestic Violence. Ms. Liggett began by saying this year's Walk was very successful. She noted the number of teams reached an all time high with over 3,000 walkers. American Express was a tremendous corporate partner with between 700-800 walkers on their team. Ms. Liggett said revenue from the Walk will result in \$100,000 in grant funding for local DV shelters. She noted contributions to the Walk declined due to loss of several corporate sponsors. Ms. Liggett stated her overall satisfaction with turn out at the event.

7. Update from the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women

Chair Manross introduced Jeremy Arp, Governor's Office, Division for Women, who provided an update from the Governor's Office and the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. Mr. Arp stated the reorganization of the Commission has been an on-going process. New membership had been sought and the Commission held its first meeting on April 10, 2008 chaired by First Lady of the Navajo Nation Vicky Shirley. He said the next meeting will look at the State Plan. Mr. Arp stated in accordance with the executive order, there will be four meetings held annually with the next meeting in December. The date of this meeting is to be determined.

Mr. Arp said the Governor's Office oversees four grant programs including the Domestic Violence Innovative Grant. He said the Governor's Office has received budget clarification from DES that Innovative grant funding will be available for FY2009 renewals. Chair Manross sought clarification that agencies would be receiving funding in FY2009. Mr. Arp replied the funding has been signed off on. Ms. Del-Colle asked if new requests for Innovative funds would be accepted. Mr. Arp stated the grant program is only seeking to fund renewals at this time. New requests would be eligible in 2010.

8. Update from the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Chair Manross introduced Allie Bones, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, who provided an update on the Coalitions activities and a legislative update. Ms. Bones began by saying the Coalition has plans to meet with DV shelters throughout the state. They have already begun visits with DV shelters in Maricopa County. She said it has been interesting touring the many shelters and visiting their programs. Ms. Bones said the Coalition collaborated with MAG staff to bring DV shelter executive directors together at a breakfast last week. She said every shelter in the region was represented providing a great opportunity for discussion. Ms. Bones stated the group decided to meet quarterly. She thanked MAG for their partnership in this effort.

Ms. Bones stated the legislature has not had much movement. She said the Coalition is preparing for the next legislative session. Ms. Bones said she has been told the state budget line item for DV will be protected this year, but there will be other cuts for human services.

Ms. Bones said the Coalition will be accepting new memberships. She provided forms for the committee. She said two membership forms have been created: one for shelters programs and the other for supporting members. Ms. Bones reported on Domestic Violence Awareness Day, a fundraising event on August 8, 2008 with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Purchasing tickets through this special offer will help to support the AZCADV and its programs. Ms. Bones announced a Save the Date for September 22, 2008 for DV: The Musical. The musical is a project brought to the Coalition by Fix the Hurt. Ms. Bones said discussions are taking place with the Herberger Theater as a venue for the musical. She also noted the Coalition's annual conference will take place on September 23-24, 2008.

9. Membership Review

Chair Manross led a discussion on membership attendance at the 2007 MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meetings. Chair Manross stated it is important for members to attend meetings to ensure quorum is met allowing the Council to take action on important issues. She thanked council members for making attendance of Council meetings a priority. Mr. Blackburn commented that Tony Vidale, who is his designated proxy, is very passionate about this issue and is a good representative for Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. Chair Manross thanked proxies for stepping in to represent their organizations when members are unable to attend.

10. Status Report on the MAG 2008 Regional Human Services Survey

Chair Manross introduced DeDe Gaisthea, MAG, who provided a report on the number of surveys, submitted to assist regional human services planning. Ms. Gaisthea began by stating MAG previously conducted a human services survey in 2006. One of the major concerns cited was regarding transportation. This was the catalyst to discuss transportation in human services. She said two of the outcomes in addressing transportation were the collaborative effort in putting together the MAG Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan and the MAG Housing and Transportation Summit recently held in April 2008.

Ms. Gaisthea stated the results for this survey will help to inform the funding cycles for Social Service Block Grant, FTA Section 5310 and Stuart B. McKinney funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She said 54 surveys have been received at this point: six from cities, 17 from non profit agencies, and two school districts. Surveys have also been received from the business sector, including the Morrison Institute and Valley Metro.

Ms. Gaisthea said surveys are still being accepted and copies have been provided today. She noted the surveys are intended to reflect people's own opinions, not necessarily those of their employer or affiliation. People may also complete the

sections of the survey they feel most comfortable. She added the results from the survey should be available later this summer. Ms. Gaisthea thanked the members who have already submitted their surveys and those who will be submitting theirs.

11. Comments

Ms. Del-Colle introduced Lieutenant Robert Bates from the Phoenix Police Department who replaces Sandra Renteria on the Council. She said he has innovative ideas in addressing the issue and has done an amazing job with his department.

Ms. Liggett announced the Arizona Foundation for Women will host a roundtable for the release of the Women in Poverty report. The event will be held on June 11, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. at the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2008 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MAG offices.